

Message Text

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10

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:SPOLANSKY:FS

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R 262015Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET TOURIST TRAVEL TO US

1. FBIS JULY 10 CARRIES EXCERPTS FROM JULY 3 LITGAZ ARTICLE ON TOURISM BY S.S. NIKITIN, CHIEF OF MAIN ADMINISTRATION FOR FOREIGN TOURISM, IN WHICH HE ADVOCATES INCREASED US-USSR TOURISM. HE NOTES THAT CONDITIONS FOR VISITS TO US BY SOVIET TOURISTS PRESENT DIFFICULTIES, MENTIONING THAT "FEW SPECIAL EXCURSIONS" ARE ARRANGED AND THAT TOURISTS HAVE TO WAIT "NO LESS THAN THREE WEEKS" FOR VISAS.

2. DEPT SUGGESTS THAT EMBASSY MAY WISH TO CONTACT NIKITIN TO INFORM HIM THAT US SIDE FAVORS EXPANSION OF TOURISM IN BOTH DIRECTIONS. IN THIS REGARD, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ENTERTAIN IDEAS HE MIGHT HAVE FOR INCREASING SOVIET TOURISM TO THE US, WHILE KEEPING IN MIND THAT ROLE OF US GOVERNMENT IS A LIMITED ONE AND THAT TOURISM IS MATTER PRIMARILY OF PRIVATE US FIRMS. EMBASSY MIGHT WISH TO POINT OUT TO NIKITIN THAT ART. 18 OF 1973 EXCHANGES

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AGREEMENT STATES THAT VISA APPLICATIONS SHALL BE

SUBMITTED, AS A RULE, AT LEAST FOURTEEN DAYS BEFORE
DEPARTURE, AND NOT THREE WEEKS. INGERSOLL

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